

THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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SHIPPING LIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS*

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Care on the part of terrarium fanciers in preparing the animals for shipment is very essential. There is no need for animals either dying or escaping in transit if proper precautions in packing are observed. If these precautions are consistently observed, the postal and express authorities will cooperate to the fullest extent of their ability with this thoroughly interesting and worthwhile hobby.

SEGREGATION AND LABELING

Be sure to place different sized specimens in separate bags or the larger ones may devour the smaller. *King snakes*, *racers* and *whip snakes* sometimes eat other snakes in transit and should be shipped, as a rule, in separate bags.

Snakes cannot be mailed but are accepted by the Railway Express Agency.

Turtles, except young specimens (baby turtles), are not mailable and must be sent by Express.

All *frogs*, *toads*, *newts*, *salamanders*, *chameleons* and other *lizards* (except Gila monsters) since they are completely harmless may be sent by mail.

All mail shipments should be marked:

P E R I S H A B L E

LIVE HARMLESS ANIMALS

Specimens Without Monetary Value for Scientific Purposes

Mailed Under Section 594, Par. 3

P. L. R. OF 1932

NO FOOD OR WATER REQUIRED EN ROUTE

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Express shipments should be marked similarly (except for "mailed under section . . .") unless poisonous snakes are included in which case "poisonous snakes" should be plainly marked on the crate.

The locality in which each was collected should be clearly indicated for each lot. This is *absolutely essential* to the scientific value of such material. Such information may be included in the box if shipped by express but sent by letter when mailable specimens are mailed. *Mark plainly each bag and box containing poisonous snakes.*

* Directions approved by Postal Authorities, June 11, 1940, (Ry H S — H). Letter from J. D. Hardy, General Superintendent, Division of Railway Mail Service also states, that section 588 of P. L. & R. provides severe penalties for violation of rules such as those prohibiting the sending of *snakes* by mail.

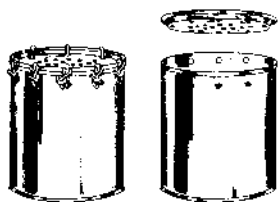
Snakes, small lizards, and baby turtles to be shipped should be placed in bags, securely tied, and then placed in tin cans, prepared as shown below, but any package containing snakes is not mailable. *Frogs, toads, and salamanders* should be packed in the same way, but with moist - not wet - sphagnum moss or similar substance in the bag.

The only safe way to use tin cans is to punch holes *outward* (so the animals are not injured by the rough metal) near the top of the can and in the lid, and then hammer the outside flat so that no one is injured in handling the can. Wires may then be run through these holes, securely fastening the lid (see figure) carefully turning back the ends of the wire to avoid injury to mail handlers. The tin can should then be wrapped in strong paper and securely tied.

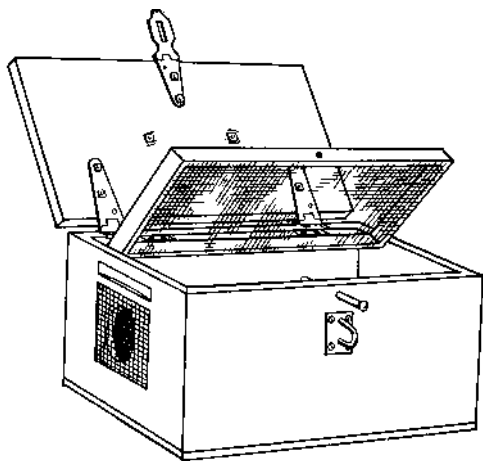
It is not necessary to make a sieve out of a tin can in order to assure sufficient air (see illustration for a four inch can); nor is it necessary to punch the wrapping paper full of holes. Be sure to label it plainly and fully so that no delays are caused by inability to find the addressee!

Snakes and turtles to be sent by express may be packed the same way if small. For larger shipments, however, wooden crates are preferred, but even here all specimens should be in bags. In the case of *poisonous snakes*, wire window screening should be nailed around the whole box.

A very satisfactory permanent shipping box, designed by Dr. H. K. Gloyd, has been in use at the Academy with great success for many years. It is a box about 12" x 8" x 8" (old shot-gun shell boxes are excellent) with a screened inside lid which fastens by a pin, and a solid wooden outside lid, fastened by a hasp which covers the pin (see illustration). These are perfectly safe and satisfactory for both harmless and poisonous species.



A tin can punched for shipping reptiles or amphibians. Note method of securing top by wire through holes in top of can and lid. These cans should be wrapped before mailing.



An acceptable shipping box, for any type of reptile, constructed from half-inch lumber.

Don't forget that proper shipping precautions are necessary to insure continued cooperation from postal and express authorities. Do not jeopardize your hobby by carelessness in this regard!